

5 **NUCLEIC ACIDS OF THE M ANTIGEN GENE OF
HISTOPLASMA CAPSULATUM, ISOLATED AND RECOMBINANTLY-
PRODUCED ANTIGENS, VACCINES AND ANTIBODIES,
METHODS AND KITS FOR DETECTING HISTOPLASMOSIS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 The present invention provides the nucleotide
sequence of the M antigen gene of *H. capsulatum*, which is
set forth in the Sequence Listing as SEQ ID NO:1, a
nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence complementary
thereto, and nucleic acids having a nucleotide sequence
which is substantially the same as the foregoing
nucleotide sequences. The present invention also
provides vectors and host expressions systems containing
15 the foregoing nucleic acids, and isolated or
recombinantly-produced antigens encoded by the foregoing
nucleic acids. The present invention further provides
antibodies generated against the foregoing antigens, and
methods and kits for detecting a previous or current
20 *Histoplasma capsulatum* infection in a subject, and for
diagnosing histoplasmosis.